



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-5693)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Anne S. Hill, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Susan Burton and Commissioner Maxine Russell M.A., M.S.

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.

Staff Present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Nyla Jefferson (13-5692)

Call to Order. (13-5576)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Hill joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the November 20, 2013 Minutes. (13-5577)

On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of November 20, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for December 4, 2013. (13-5578)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

Los Angeles Times:

- New sheriff watchdog role filled (November 27, 2013)
- L.A. County settles inmate suit vs. Baca (November 30, 2013)
- Applicants for sheriff's jobs hired despite pasts (December 1, 2013)
- Misconduct didn't stop sheriff hires (December 1, 2013)
- County leaders urge hiring inquiry (December 2, 2013)
- A dungeon in L.A. County (December 4, 2013)
- Baca to probe officers' hiring (December 4, 2013)
- More than one way on jails (December 4, 2013)
- Supervisor accused of flouting law (December 4, 2013)
- The sheriff's troubling hires (December 4, 2013)

Daily Breeze:

- Some inmates transferred to fire camps (November 7, 2013)
- Deukmejian among guests at courthouse dedication (November 22, 2013)
- Report: Many LA sheriff's hires had troubled past (December 2, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report for December 4, 2013. (13-5579)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$715.96.

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for December 4, 2013. (13-5580)

There was no report.

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on December 4, 2013. (13-5581)

In Compliance:

- Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Homes # 4, Page 20, #1, on November 26, 2013.
- Commissioner Burton visited Junior Blind of America Group Home, Page 23, #1, on December 3, 2013.

Not In Compliance:

- Commissioner Russell visited Aviva Center, Hamburger House (Center), Page 1, #3, on November 26, 2013. She reported that she had to wait for about half an hour to get an escort to conduct the inspection. Only one staff person had the key to the inside cupboard where the products were stored and the staff was not available to open the cupboard. The escort (staff) was unable to answer the Commissioner's questions and there were no carbon monoxide detectors installed. There were dishes, but they only had disposable paper cups to serve the youth. The youth gratitude journals were well maintained.

The provider sent an email follow-up to Commissioner Russell on December 2, 2013 showing pictures of the newly installed carbon monoxide detectors. Commissioners Russell and Burton will revisit the Center.

6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from November 21, 2013 to December 3, 2013. (13-5582)

During the reporting period, the following Lock up Facility and Group Home were reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

- Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station on December 2, 2013. The Commissioners reported that the facility was disorganized: trustees' quarters were dirty; the food handling procedure was poor; and there was a pornographic poster in the trustees' bathroom. The staff was disorganized and the escort refused to show the Commissioners the cells/living area of the inmates. The Commissioners plan to revisit the facility.

Staff was requested to report the findings to the Board of Supervisors.

- Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Children Are Our Future (Howard House), Page 6, #3, on November 22, 2013. They found that the first bed in bedroom #2 needs new box springs and frame. The bedroom also needs a closet door. The bathroom shower needs caulking; bedroom #3 needs a mattress on the first bed and the dressers replaced. The oven door in the kitchen needs a new handle and the oven cleaned. The carpet needs cleaning or be replaced. According to the new manager the items have been placed on a work order. The Commissioners will return in 30 days to inspect improvements.

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited Camp Kenyon Scudder on November 25, 2013. The Commissioner noted that the Camp uses the Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program. The staff were not as professional as other camps with the exception of the cook who mentors the youth in culinary.**
- **Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited the Long Beach Branch Superior Court on November 26, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited the Turmont Home for Boys, Page 41, #1, on November 27, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Crescenta Valley Sheriff Station on November 25, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Children Are Our Future (Harvey House), Page 6, #3, on December 3, 2013. The facility was in satisfactory condition with the exception of the light fixture in the bathroom on the right side of the hall which needs to be replaced and the mold on the shower door in the back bedroom needs to be cleaned.**

This was a revisit and the Commissioners were pleasantly pleased that the repairs were done as previously requested.

- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Fleming and Barnes Dimondale Adolescent #2, Page 18, #1, on November 26, 2013. The facility was in satisfactory condition with the exception of the dressers in bedrooms #2 and #3 which need fixing; and bedrooms #1 and #3 need mattresses and the bed frames need to be repaired.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Careprovider Organization Foundation (Children & Family Service I), Page 4, #1, on November 21, 2013. This was a return visit. The curtains in the recreation room have been replaced and the owner has a contractor's estimate to repair the floor. Commissioners Bigby and Hill will return in one week to inspect the improvements.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Home was visited but not inspected:

- **Commissioners Bigby visited Hillsides Home for Children, Page 21, #2, on November 29, 2013 and there was no one home.**

III. DISCUSSION

7. Psychotropic Medication Use Among Children in Foster Care: A National and State-Level Perspective. (Continued from meeting of October 30, 2013, November 13, 2013 and December 4, 2013)

Discussion regarding the Commission's role/involvement in the review and documentation of how psychotropic medications are administered to the children/youth in the group homes. (13-5053)

Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Burton suggested that the discussion on psychotropic medications be continued to the next meeting to allow all the Commissioners to be present. All was in favor.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5583)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5585)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of December 4, 2013. (13-5586)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of December 4, 2013 at 11:13 a.m.